

State Representative

TOM CAMPBELL

2nd Legislative District
334 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Campbell.Tom@leg.wa.gov
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Campbell>

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REP. CAMPBELL'S ECONOMIC TOWN HALLS

**Saturday,
March 21st**

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Graham Library
9202 224th St E

**Saturday,
March 28th**

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Yelm Fire Station
709 Mill Rd.
(please park in front
by the American flag)

2009 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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2nd Legislative District



REPRESENTING CITIZENS OF PIERCE COUNTY,
INCLUDING McKenna, Rainier, Roy, Ft. Lewis, Spanaway,
Orting, Graham, and the City of Eatonville;
and Yelm and Lawrence Lake in Thurston County.

Throughout my legislative career in Olympia, I've remained committed to delivering you honest and candid answers to your questions and concerns. Sometimes that ruffles feathers, but you can always count on me to deliver you the truth.

And the truth about our economic situation - and its effect on our state budget - is, we're in a very dire situation and one that could ultimately hurt a lot of people. Some very tough decisions will be made this year. I take no pleasure in cutting services to citizens who need them to survive, nor can I support cuts that would endanger the public's safety or health, and that includes issues surrounding environmental health.

As we begin the process of prioritizing what services to provide and where to cut, your opinion matters more than anything else. That's why I've included a short survey at the end of this newsletter. Times are tough for everyone right now, but I want to know where you stand on the services and investments that state government makes with our tax dollars.



Please
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LEADING THE WAY
ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

As Chair of the House Environmental Health Committee, I receive facts and data compiled by state, national, and international experts on issues ranging from toxicity levels in children's toys, to industrial emissions, to the damage caused by errant use of harmful pesticides. There is no doubt in my mind that our environment, and our own health is on the line and that we need to act fast to undo this damage before it's too late.

As a member of the House Health Care committee too, I can see a clear cause-and-effect between the way we treat our environment, and the alarming increase in medical problems. I don't view our children's health, and the health of our homes, schools, and backyards as a partisan issue. I view it as a moral issue, and frankly, a fiscally responsible one as well; we can either address the pollution levels now or wait until the price tag grows to an unmanageable level.

Here are a few of the issues my committee is working on this year:

- Screening more children for dangerous levels of mercury poisoning.
- Strengthening the Department of Ecology's Waste Reduction office to reduce the use of toxic chemicals in manufacturing, and foster the production of safer consumer products.
- Phase out the use of plastic bags wherever possible, in order to reduce the massive number that end up clogging our landfills and killing marine life.

ENSURING SAFE HOSPITALS AND BETTER HEALTH CARE

"First, Do No Harm." It's the golden rule all doctors and medical professionals swear to uphold in their chosen practice. When a hospital visit becomes necessary, we expect to receive the best care possible, and a realistic outcome.

The unfortunate reality is, too many people are becoming dangerously ill the moment they step into a hospital. That's because of a terrible bacterial infection, methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), that's on the rise and becoming a problem in some of our health care establishments.

This strain of bacteria has become drug-resistant and can be spread quite easily through skin contact. Some of these infections are minor; others however, can lead to serious complications, even death, for hospital patients already fighting other illnesses.

In 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that approximately 94,360 people nationwide developed a serious MRSA infection in 2005. Of these people, the CDC estimated that approximately 18,650 died during a hospital stay related to the infection.

My bill, HB 1123, must at a minimum contain the following elements:

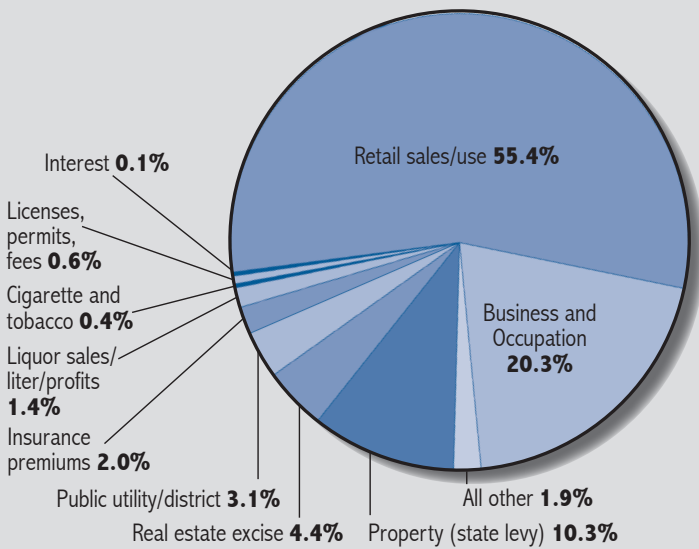
- A procedure for identifying and testing “at-risk patients” for MRSA.
- Appropriate procedures to help prevent patients who test positive from infecting other patients, including segregation; and
- A requirement that every patient who tests positive for MRSA be given oral and written instructions regarding aftercare and precautions to prevent further spread of the infection.

After years of fighting this battle with the hospital association, I'm pleased to note they have begun cooperating with me, and we're beginning to make progress and take action finally. But I won't let up. Protecting patients is one of my highest priorities this session, and I am confident we will have a policy in place by the end of it.

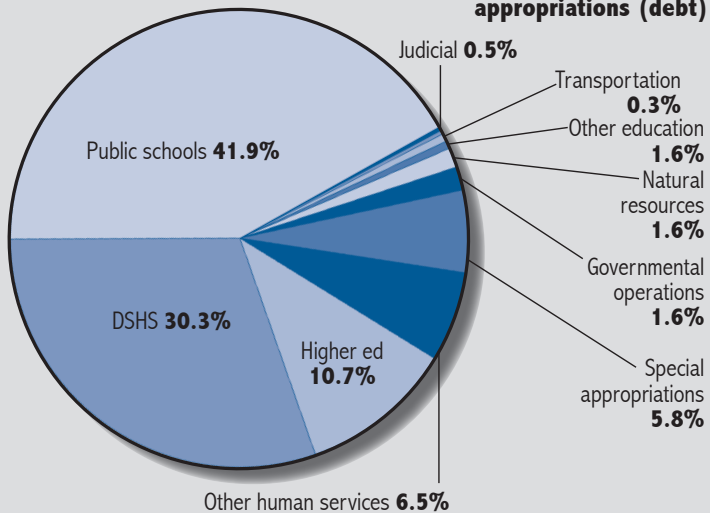
BUILDING THE STATE'S BUDGET

To understand how our state government operates, it's essential to know where the revenue comes from, and where it ultimately goes. These charts help illustrate those two points:

What revenues support the state budget? Mostly state sales tax, business and occupation tax...and some property tax.



Over 95% of the state's operating budget is spent in five areas: public schools, DSHS, higher ed, other human services and special appropriations (debt)



CUT ALONG THIS LINE

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

In order to deal with the nearly \$6 billion state budget deficit, cuts to the areas in the pie chart above will have to be made.

Here's your chance to let me know where you think those cuts should come from and help prioritize our state's spending.

*Please mail your results to me, or email me your results at:
Campbell.tom@leg.wa.gov*

Please rank the following government services by assigning a number to each:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="text"/> K-12 Education | <input type="text"/> Fire Safety |
| <input type="text"/> Higher Education | <input type="text"/> Food Safety |
| <input type="text"/> Public Health Services | <input type="text"/> Judicial/Legal Services |
| <input type="text"/> Transportation | <input type="text"/> Housing |
| <input type="text"/> Public Safety | <input type="text"/> Job Creation/Investments |
| <input type="text"/> Crime Prevention & Prisons | <input type="text"/> Construction & Infrastructure |
| <input type="text"/> Natural Resource Management | Spending (schools, parks,
community revitalization, etc) |
| <input type="text"/> State Parks | |

Have ideas for saving state dollars? Share them here:

[illegible]